

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the United States Army Special Forces are specifically trained to conduct operations in an area under enemy or unfriendly control or politically sensitive environments to achieve military, diplomatic, and informational objectives of the United States, and among the first units to be officially formed, the 1st Special Forces Group was activated on 24 June, 1957 at Camp Drake, Japan; and

WHEREAS, the 1st Special Forces Group has the distinction of their unit suffering the first casualty in Vietnam, Captain Harry Cramer, killed on 21 October, 1957, and the last member, Sergeant Fred Mick killed on 12 October, 1972, as well as the first man killed in Afghanistan, Sergeant First Class Nathan Chapman. The total price paid by the 1st Special Forces Group was over 100 men killed in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, following the war in South Vietnam and the withdrawal of American military forces in Southeast Asia, emphasis by the U.S. Army Special Forces, which had grown to seven units, shifted from the Pacific theater, and the 1st Special Forces Group was deactivated on 28 June, 1974 in Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the need for an Asian unconventional warfare force was later recognized, and so on 15 March, 1984 Alpha Company and the 1st Battalion were assembled and reactivated with the unit focused on the Pacific Command area of operations, contingency operations in Haiti, Central Asia, and Bosnia; additionally Operational Detachments Alpha conducted Humanitarian Demining Operations in Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam, earning Humanitarian Service Medals for their efforts both in Laos and Thailand; and

WHEREAS, following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2011, members of the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) answered President Bush's call to action by deploying individual soldiers to support Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and back-to-back battalion rotations to the Republic of the Philippines. For its tremendous effort in the progress against terrorism, the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation on 24 January, 2004 for its outstanding meritorious performance in a difficult and challenging mission while supporting the Global War on Terrorism, and today they continue that support with operations in the Philippines, Iraq, and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, during the week of 17-22 June, 2011, over 230 of the original members of the highly accomplished 1st Special Forces Group will hold their 54th Anniversary Reunion here in Tampa, Florida and the special commendations awarded to members of this unit have totaled 8 Distinguished Services Crosses, 44 Silver Stars, 244 Bronze Stars, 499 Air Medals, and over 600 Purple Hearts, many receiving multiple honors.

THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, proclaim June 20, 2011 as

1st SPECIAL FORCES GROUP DAY

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in welcoming the men and their families to Tampa, and thanking each and every member of the 1st Special Forces Group, others who have served, and those currently serving in defense of the United States of America to ensure the safety and freedom of all its citizens.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 13th Day of June, 2011.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

